

Application Serial No. 10/534,927
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-4209

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated January 24, 2006, the Examiner states that Claims 1-5 are pending, Claims 1-3 are rejected and Claims 4 and 5 are objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 4 and 5 are objected to for various informalities. The claims have been amended to correct these informalities. The claims have also been amended to remove the reference numerals, characterizing language, and means plus function language. The claims have not been amended for any reason relating to the patentability of the claims in view of the cited prior art references.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasmussen et al. (US 6,601,973) in view of Niethammer (DE 2,263,689). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection.

Rasmussen discloses rotatable gobos removably affixed on a carrier disk. In contrast, Niethammer discloses gobos fixedly mounted on a carrier disk, which cannot rotate. A partial translation of Niethammer on page 7, paragraph 3 is as follows:

"The segments (Fassungsringe) 10 for the gobos (Farscheiben) 11 are suitably fixed fingers (Zwischenhebeln = intermediate arms) 9, i.e. by rivets or spot welds. The fingers 9 . . . are fixed at the gobo carrier (Farbschelbentrager) 4 by fixing screws (Feststellschraube) 15, which are screwed through a hole 16 in the finger 9 into the gobo carrier 4. By loosening the fixing screw 15 and lifting the finger 9 a gobo can be easily changed."

As can be seen in the drawing figures of Niethammer, the fingers 9 are directly attached to the outer segments 10 of the gobo, fixing the gobo in place, without allowing any rotation of the gobo.

The Applicant considers that a person skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the two cited references. Rasmussen is directed to rotatable gobos. Niethammer actually teaches away from this feature, requiring that the gobos be mounted in a fixed position. Thus, a person skilled in the art, looking to advance the state of the art of rotatable gobos, would dismiss the teaching of Rasmussen since it teaches the use of fixed gobos, and does not at all suggest or teach adapting the structure for use with rotatable gobos.

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Furthermore, if a person skilled in the art were to combine the two cited references, the result would be gobos that did not rotate on the carrier disc. Even if one were to take the inventive leap to affix the fingers 9 of Niethammer to the corresponding lamella part of Rasmussen (which would need to be extended laterally in at least one direction as disclosed in the present application), the rotatable gobos would not be easily inserted and removed from the fingers since they are screwed in place, which is contrary to the intention of the present invention, and would also be contrary to the teaching of Rasmussen which discloses gobos which are easily inserted and removed from the carrier plate without the use of tools. Again, there would be no motivation to combine these two references since the result would not be an advance of the state of the art.

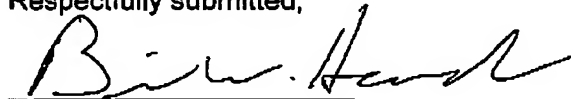
For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to Claims 1-3 be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613